

Positive Behavior Support Policy and Procedures

Pursuant to 22 Pa Code 711.46, Philadelphia Montessori Charter School has adopted the following Positive Behavior Support (PBS) policy and procedures:

When eligible students require specific intervention(s) to address behavior that interferes with learning, Philadelphia Montessori Charter School shall include positive behavior support as a part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP.) Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is the primary method of addressing behaviors. Positive techniques for the development, change, and maintenance of behaviors shall be the least intrusive necessary.

Use of restraints

When an IEP Team determines that it is necessary to include the use of restrictive or intrusive procedures or restraints for controlling a student's behavior in that student's IEP, Philadelphia Montessori Charter School shall obtain parental consent prior to the use of those restrictive or intrusive procedures or restraints. In addition, the team shall explain in the IEP: (1) how the restrictive or intrusive procedures or restraints will be used with specific component elements of PBS, in conjunction with (2) the teaching of alternative, socially-acceptable behavioral skills, as well as include (3) a plan for eliminating the use of restraints.

Mechanical restraints

Mechanical restraints, which are used to control involuntary movement or lack of muscular control of students when due to organic causes or conditions, may be employed only when specified by an IEP and as determined by a medical professional qualified to make the determination and as agreed to by the student's parents. Mechanical restraints shall prevent a student from injuring themselves or others or promote normative body positioning and physical functioning.

Limitations of the use of restraints

Restraints to control acute or episodic aggressive or self-injurious behavior shall be used only when the student is acting in a manner as to be a clear and present danger to him or herself, to other students, or to employees, and only when less restrictive measures and techniques have proven to be or are less effective. **IMPORTANT:** Restraints may only be used as a last resort. The use of restraints may never be included in the IEP for the convenience of staff, as a substitute for an educational program, or employed as punishment.

Prohibited restraint techniques

In no event, shall the following aversive, inappropriate techniques of handling behavior be used at Philadelphia Montessori Charter School: (1) corporal punishments, (2) prone restraints, (3) locked rooms, locked boxes, or other locked structures or spaces from which the student cannot readily exit, (4) noxious substances, (5) deprivation of basic human rights, such as

withholding meals, water, or fresh air, (6) suspension constituting a pattern, (7) treatment of a demeaning nature, (8) electric shock.

Parental notification

When a student has been restrained, the parent shall be notified and an IEP Team Meeting shall be convened within 10 school days, unless the parents provide a written waiver or this requirement.

IEP Team review

The use of restraints to control aggressive behavior of an individual student shall cause of meeting of the IEP Team to review the current IEP for appropriateness and effectiveness.

Referral of student to law enforcement

Subsequent to a referral to law enforcement of a student with a disability who has a positive behavior support plan for alleged criminal activity, the student's IEP Team shall be convened to (1) review the current IEP for appropriateness and effectiveness, (2) update (or develop) the Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), and (3) revise the PBS plan.

Authorization and training of personnel

Only Philadelphia Montessori Charter School personnel who are so authorized by the principal may employ restraints to control a student's behavior. All authorized personnel shall be trained in PBS, de-escalation techniques and emergency techniques, and crisis restraint procedures.

Data on restraints

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School shall maintain and report data on restraints as required by the Secretary of Education.

PDE resources

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School shall access professional development opportunities and technical assistance provided by the PDE's Bureau of Special Education and PaTTAN, including the development of school-wide behavior support programs.